British Medical Journal Supplement

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British Medical Association

President: Sir DOUGLAS ROBB, C.M.G., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S.
Acting President: Sir ARTHUR PORRITT, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., M.A., LL.D., M.Ch., P.R.C.S.

ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING—NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE, APRIL 12-15, 1962

Local Officers

Chairman: J. T. RICE-EDWARDS, F.R.C.S.Ed., J.P.

Honorary General Secretary: T. R. BRYANT, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., J.P., "Glan Howy," Tredegar, Mon.

Honorary Science Secretary: BERNARD A. THOMAS, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., 30 Stow Park Avenue, Newport, Mon.

Executive Officer: Miss B. E. MIDDLEMISS, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1. (Euston 4499.)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The Fifth Annual Clinical Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in Newport, Monmouthshire, from the evening of Thursday, April 12, to Sunday, April 15, 1962. All scientific meetings except the clinical demonstrations will take place in the College of Technology, Newport. The following is a summary of the programme.

Thursday, April 12.—In the evening an after-dinner reception will be given by the Monmouthshire Division in the Main Hall of the College of Technology.

Friday, April 13.—The scientific programme will begin at 9.30 a.m. with a choice of three Panel Discussions. These will be followed at 10.35 a.m. by the 130th Annual General Meeting of the Association in the Main Hall, at which the Acting President, Sir Arthur Porritt, will give a short address. Coffee will be served in the Dining Hall at 11 a.m. and a programme of demonstrations from the Royal Gwent Hospital will be shown on colour television (sponsored by Smith Kline and French Laboratories Ltd.) in the Main Hall from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be available in the Dining Hall from 1 to 2.15 p.m. From 2.15 to 4.15 p.m. there will be a symposium on the problem of cancer, and, after a break for tea in the Dining Hall at 4.15 p.m., medical films and a Clinicopathological Conference from 4.45 to 5.45 p.m. As an alternative to the programme in the College of Technology there will be a visit to Messrs. Richard Thomas and Baldwins Steelworks, Ebbw Vale, from 2.15 to 6 p.m. In the evening a wine and cheese party will be given by the Mayor and Corporation of Newport in the Civic Centre.

Saturday, April 14.—The morning session will open at 9.30 a.m. with a symposium on alcohol and road accidents, and from 10 to 11 a.m. there will be a panel discussion for doctors' wives. After a break for coffee at 11 a.m. there will be a second programme of demonstrations from the Royal Gwent Hospital shown on colour television in the Main Hall from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the alternative of a symposium on the occupational hazards of coal-mining from 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. in the Lecture Theatre. Lunch will be served in the Dining Hall from 1 to 2 p.m. In the afternoon a series of clinical demonstrations will be given at the Royal Gwent Hospital and St. Woolos Hospital. In the evening a concert by the B.B.C. Welsh Orchestra and Artistes will be given in the Main Hall.

Sunday, April 15.—In the morning there will be a visit to a coal-mine (for a limited number of men only), and special services will be held at St. Woolos' Cathedral, when the Archbishop of Wales will preach the sermon, and at Stow Hill Roman Catholic Church. Facilities for golf and sailing will be available.

Catering Arrangements

Arrangements have been made for morning coffee, buffet luncheon, and afternoon tea to be available in the Dining Hall of the College of Technology on the Friday and Saturday. (Tea on Saturday will be served at the Royal Gwent and St. Woolos Hospitals during the programme of clinical demonstrations.)

Private Hospitality

Private hospitality will be offered by members of the Monmouthshire Division, and members are invited to avail themselves of these offers. Any member interested should write either to Mr. F. W. Robertson, M.D., D.O.M.S., 23 Stow Park Circle, Newport, Mon. (Tel. Newport 65897), or to Dr. A. G. Jarrams, 20 Canberra Crescent, Newport, Mon. (Tel. Newport 63675). Accommodation for caravans can be arranged, and those interested should inform Mr. Robertson or Dr. Jarrams in good time.

Hotel Accommodation

The following is a list of hotels in Newport. Owing to extreme pressure on Newport hotels members wishing to reserve accommodation are urged to write direct to the hotel as early as possible, stating that they are attending the B.M.A. Meeting. The prices stated below are subject to variation without notice, and applicants should therefore verify the tariffs when making their reservations.

Name and Address of Hotel	Tel. No.	No. of Bed-rooms	Licence	Parking and Comments	Tariff B/B
Belle Vue Hotel, Stow Park Avenue	67312	30	Club	Parking place	27/6
County Club, St. Mellons (5 miles from Newport)	Castleton 355	16	,,	Visitors must be "signed in" by a member*	32/-
Dunmarklyn Hotel, Stow Hill	65554	12	,,	Parking space	22/6
Glen Roy Hotel, Stow Hill	65541	12	,,	,,	25/-
King's Head Hotel, High Street	63211	45	Full	Covered parking space	32/6+ 10%
Queen's Hotel, Bridge Street	62992	41	,,	Parking space near by	32/6+ 10%
Richmond Hotel, Caerau Road	67553	10	Table	Limited parking place	25/-
Stow Park Hotel, Stow Hill	63395	30	Club	Parking space	22/6+ 10%
Tredegar Arms, High Street	62820	22	Full	Parking space near by	28/6
Westgate Hotel, Commercial Street	64107	84	,,	Limited covered parking space	32/6

* Those wishing to stay here should contact Mr. Robertson or Dr. Jarrams.

In the event of members being unable to obtain accommodation in Newport, the following hotels in Cardiff may be tried: the Angel, the Grand, the Park, the Queen's, and the Royal.

Car Parking and Transport

Ample free car-parking facilities will be available in the grounds of the College of Technology and in the avenues alongside. Buses will be available for transport between the College of Technology and the clinical demonstrations. In addition, there will be a frequent bus service between the two hospitals during the demonstrations.

Ladies

Ladies accompanying members will be welcome at the social functions. A ladies' programme has been arranged by a local ladies' committee, details of which are given below.

Registration

The Registration Bureau will be open in the Entrance Hall of the College of Technology from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14.

To assist the organizers of the Meeting to make adequate arrangements, members who propose to attend are asked to inform the Executive Officer, Newport Meeting, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1, as soon as possible.

It would be particularly appreciated if such members would also indicate the name of any person accompanying them and how many tickets, if any, they would like for the following: (1) Social Functions: (*a*) Division Reception, (*b*) Civic Reception, (*c*) Concert, (*d*) Church Service at St. Woolos' Cathedral, or Stow Hill Roman Catholic Church, (2) Visit to Coal-mine (for limited number of men only); (3) Visit to Steelworks at Ebbw Vale, or Occupational Hygiene Laboratory, Abercarn.

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

Thursday, April 12

8.30 to 10.30 p.m.—*Reception* in the Main Hall of the College of Technology, Allt-yr-yn Avenue, Newport, by the Monmouthshire Division (Afternoon dress). (Ample car-parking space available.)

Friday, April 13

(All scientific meetings except the clinical demonstrations on Saturday, April 14, will take place in the College of Technology, Newport.)

9.30 to 10.30 a.m. (Lecture Theatre).—*Panel Discussion.* "Ano-genital Pruritus." Chairman: Mr. J. M. BOWEN (Newport). Panel: Mr. A. LAWRENCE ABEL (London), Mr. J. A. STALLWORTHY (Oxford), Dr. H. R. VICKERS (Oxford).

9.30 to 10.30 a.m. (Room A).—*Panel Discussion.* "Management of Urinary Infections." Chairman: Mr. HYWEL G. ROBERTS (Newport). Panel: Professor W. A. GILLESPIE (Bristol), Mr. G. E. MOLONEY (Oxford), Dr. J. McC. MURDOCH (Edinburgh), Professor C. A. WELLS (Liverpool).

9.30 to 10.30 a.m. (Room B).—*Panel Discussion.* "E.N.T. Problems in General Practice." Chairman: Dr. DAVID JOHN (Newport). Panel: Mr. D. F. N. HARRISON (London), Mr. RONALD MACBETH (Oxford), Professor A. G. WATKINS (Cardiff).

10.35 to 10.55 a.m. (Main Hall).—*130th Annual General Meeting of the Association,* and short Address by the Acting President, Sir ARTHUR PORRITT.

11 to 11.30 a.m. (Dining Hall).—Coffee.

11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Main Hall).—*Colour Television:* Programme of surgical operations and a dermatological demonstration from the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Moderator: Dr. ANEURIN HUGHES. Chairman of Studio Panels: Dr. G. S. ANDREWS. (1) Cataract Extraction: Surgeon, Mr. H. G. WISHART HOARE. Studio Panel: Dr. P. E. DIPPLE, Mr. F. W. ROBERTSON. (2) Colour in Dermatological Diagnosis: Dr. BERNARD A. THOMAS. Studio Panel: Dr. A. G. JARRAMS, Dr. P. J. B. THOMAS. (3) Vaginal Hysterectomy: Surgeon, Mr. E. ARTHUR WILLIAMS. Anaesthetist: Dr. D. G. H. DAVIES. Studio Panel: Mr. J. M. BOWEN, Dr. P. M. VASEY.

1 to 2.15 p.m. (Dining Hall).—Lunch.

2.15 to 4.15 p.m. (Main Hall).—*Symposium:* The Problem of Cancer. Chairman: Mr. J. T. RICE-EDWARDS (Newport). Speakers: Professor ALEXANDER HADDOW (London), Sir CLEMENT PRICE THOMAS (London), Dr. RONALD BODLEY SCOTT (London), Professor Sir BRIAN WINDEYER (London).

2.15 to 6 p.m.—Visit to Messrs. Richard Thomas and Baldwins Steelworks at Ebbw Vale, for men only. (Limited to 30.)

2.15 to 6 p.m.—Visit to Occupational Hygiene Laboratory, Richard Thomas and Baldwins, Abercarn, to be transported to Ebbw Vale for tea. (Limited to 10.)

4.15 to 4.45 p.m. (Dining Hall).—Tea.

4.45 to 5.45 p.m. (Main Hall).—*Clinicopathological Conference.* A Case for Diagnosis. Chairman: Dr. E. GRAHAME JONES (Newport). Guest Speaker: Professor L. J. WITTS (Oxford). Pathologist: Dr. G. S. ANDREWS (Newport).

4.45 to 5.45 p.m. (Room A).—*Medical Films.*

8.30 to 10.30 p.m. (Civic Centre, Newport).—*Wine and Cheese Party* given by the Mayor and Corporation of Newport (Afternoon dress). Car-parking facilities available.

Saturday, April 14

9.30 to 11 a.m. (Main Hall).—*Symposium* on Alcohol and Road Accidents: "One for the Road." Chairman: Dr. BERNARD A. THOMAS (Newport). Speakers: Professor G. C. DREW (London), Dr. C. H. JOHNSON (London), Professor E. J. WAYNE (Glasgow).

10 to 11 a.m. (Lecture Theatre).—*Panel Discussion for Doctors' Wives:* "The Dragon Replies." Chairman: Dr. AGNES KENNIE (Paignton), Lady DAIN (Birmingham), Mrs. R. G. GIBSON (Winchester), Mrs. P. R. V. TOMSON (Abbots Langley).

11 to 11.30 a.m. (Dining Hall).—Coffee.

11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Main Hall).—*Colour Television:* Programme of surgical operations and demonstrations from the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Moderator: Dr. R. ANEURIN WILLIAMS. Chairman of Studio Panels: Mr. L. J. HORN. (1) A Surgical Procedure Using Hypnosis Anaesthesia: Surgeon, Mr. J. T. RICE-EDWARDS; Hypnotist, Dr. G. M. KING. Studio Panel: Mr. H. R. KER, Dr. I. MAZIN. (2) The Use of Intravenous Dye in the Estimation of Soft-tissue Destruction: Mr. EMLYN E. LEWIS. Studio Panel: Dr. J. GRAHAM JONES, Mr. M. N. TEMPEST. (3) Radical Mastectomy: Surgeon, Mr. R. D. RICHARDS; Anaesthetist, Dr. A. H. PHILLIPS. Studio Panel: Dr. S. ROSEHILL, Mr. L. P. THOMAS.

11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. (Lecture Theatre).—*Symposium:* The Occupational Hazards of Coal-mining. Chairman: Dr. TREVOR R. BRYANT (Tredegar). Speakers: Dr. F. F. HELLIER (Leeds), Mr. EMLYN E. LEWIS (Chepstow), Dr. J. McG. ROGAN (London), Mr. DILLWYN M. E. THOMAS (Sully).

1 to 2 p.m. (Dining Hall).—Lunch.

2.15 to 5 p.m.—*Clinical Demonstrations* at the Royal Gwent Hospital and St. Woolos Hospital, Newport (see detailed programme below). Tea will be provided during the demonstrations.

8 to 10 p.m. (Main Hall, College of Technology).—*Concert* by the B.B.C. Welsh Orchestra and Artistes. (To be broadcast by B.B.C.)

Sunday, April 15

10 a.m.—Visit to South Celynen Colliery, Abercarn, Mon., for men only. (Limited to 15.)

10 a.m. (Newport Golf Club).—B.M.A. Golf Tournament (Sir Garrod Thomas Cup). (Inquiries to Dr. W. F. Colburn, 34 Alt-yr-yn Avenue, Newport, Mon.)

11 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.—Service in St. Woolos' Cathedral, Newport. The Archbishop of Wales will preach the sermon.

11 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.—Service in Stow Hill Roman Catholic Church.

Arrangements will also be made for any members wishing to sail at the Newport Yacht Club. (Inquiries to Dr. W. J. Thompson, 41 St. Julian's Road, Newport, Mon.)

PROGRAMME OF CLINICAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Saturday, April 14, 2.15 to 5 p.m.

ROYAL GWENT HOSPITAL AND ST. WOOLOS HOSPITAL

Medicine 1.—Dr. ANEURIN HUGHES: Primary pulmonary thrombosis.

Medicine 2.—Dr. P. E. DIPPLE, Dr. E. GRAHAME JONES, Dr. D. M. WILLIAMS: Some metabolic diseases.

Surgery 1.—Mr. H. R. KER, Mr. J. T. RICE-EDWARDS: Congenital hypertrophic pyloric stenosis.

Surgery 2.—Mr. HYWEL G. ROBERTS: Current cases of interest.

Surgery 3.—Mr. R. D. RICHARDS: Congenital arterio-venous fistulae.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology.—Mr. J. M. BOWEN, Mr. E. ARTHUR WILLIAMS: (*a*) Lateral pelvimetry; (*b*) Current cases of interest.

Anaesthetics.—Dr. D. G. H. DAVIES, Dr. A. H. PHILLIPS, Dr. K. S. THOM, Dr. J. W. THOMAS: (*a*) Sterility and the anaesthetist; (*b*) Respiratory difficulties.

Bacteriology.—Dr. R. D. GRAY: Some aspects of hospital and public health bacteriology.

Casualty.—Mr. R. VERNON JONES: Organization of a new casualty department.

Chest Diseases.—Dr. M. I. JACKSON: (*a*) Diagnosis of cases presenting with miliary mottling of the lung on *x*-ray; (*b*) Present trends in tuberculosis. Dr. M. I. JACKSON, Mr. T. H. L. ROSSER: Ward Round.

Dermatology.—Dr. BERNARD A. THOMAS, Dr. P. J. B. THOMAS: Affections of the nails.

Geriatrics.—Dr. MORAG L. INSLEY, Dr. R. G. H. SALKELD: "The Old Folks at Home."

Ophthalmology.—Mr. H. G. WISHART HOARE, Mr. F. W. ROBERTSON, Mr. R. VAUGHAN-JONES: (*a*) Cases of eye trauma; (*b*) Cases of unusual interest; (*c*) Cases of general medical interest. Dr. A. WALSH: Herpetic diseases of the eye.

Otorhinolaryngology.—Current cases of interest.

Paediatrics.—Dr. TERENCE A. BRAND: Current cases of interest.

Pathology 1.—Dr. J. FINE: Assessment of pulmonary function by oximetry using spectrophotometer.

Pathology 2.—Dr. G. S. ANDREWS: Unusual morbid anatomy specimens.

Pathology 3.—Dr. G. S. ANDREWS, Mr. T. H. L. ROSSER: Clinical value of exfoliative cytology in neoplasia of lung.

Pathology 4.—Dr. J. HOWARD JONES: Photography of Ouchterlony plates.

Plastic Surgery.—Mr. A. L. SCHOFIELD: Maxillo-facial injuries.

Psychiatry.—Dr. W. T. H. WALES: Results of chemo-pallidectomy for Parkinsonism.

Radiology.—Dr. A. H. ANSARI, Dr. A. G. M. DAVIES, Dr. R. H. OWEN, Dr. R. ANEURIN WILLIAMS: (*a*) Demonstration of *x*-ray films; (*b*) Uses of the mobile image intensifier.

LADIES' PROGRAMME

Registration

Ladies accompanying doctors to the Annual Clinical Meeting are asked to inform the Executive Officer, Newport Meeting, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1, as soon as possible.

It would be particularly appreciated if such ladies would also indicate the events listed below in which they would like to take part. These are *in addition* to the Division Reception, Civic Reception, and Concert referred to in the main programme.

The ladies of the Monmouthshire Division are reminded that they are welcome to take part in the programme, and *should register* if they wish to do so.

A Registration and Information Bureau for Ladies will be situated as follows: Thursday, April 12, 4 to 8 p.m.—Entrance Hall of College of Technology, Newport. Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.—The Westgate Hotel, Newport.

Ladies' Club

A Ladies' Club will be opened on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, at the Westgate Hotel, Commercial Street, Newport, where a changing-room and other amenities will be provided.

Events

Friday, April 13

10 a.m. to 12 noon.—Coffee party at the Ladies' Club, Westgate Hotel, Newport.

2 to 5 p.m.—Visit to the Research Department and Gardens of British Nylon Spinners Ltd., Pontypool. Demonstrations of the weaving of stockings and fabrics will be shown, including an exhibition of nylon fabrics and furs. Tea will be provided. (Limited to 70.)

Saturday, April 14

11.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.—Visit to Tintern Abbey, followed by lunch at the Beaufort Hotel, Tintern. Afternoon visit to Raglan Castle with tea at Beaufort Arms Hotel, Raglan.

Lunch with private hostesses: assemble at the Westgate Hotel at 12.30 for 1 p.m.

Cars can be arranged for those who prefer to visit other places of local interest—for example, Chepstow Castle, Llanthony Abbey, Tretower, Caerleon Amphitheatre, Nelson Collection, etc.

Golf can be arranged on Saturday morning at Newport Golf Club.

JOINT CONSULTANTS COMMITTEE

The Joint Consultants Committee met on October 31 at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Mr. T. Holmes Sellors was re-elected chairman. The Committee has issued the following report of the meeting.

Review of Hospital Medical Staffing

A report was given on the further discussions between representatives of the Committee and of the Ministry on the procedure for a review of hospital medical staffing, as recommended in the report of the joint working party on medical staffing (Platt Report). It was hoped that agreement on the method of the proposed review would not now be long delayed.

Medical Staffing and Overseas Appointments

Sir ARTHUR PORRITT reported on a conference held at the Royal College of Surgeons when it was decided to set up a working party "to consider at a professional level the methods by which British medicine can contribute to the development of medical science and medical services in the developing countries."

The Joint Consultants Committee was pleased to learn that the Ministry of Health and the new Department of Technical Co-operation are interested in this project. In view of the urgency of the problem it was hoped that action would not be long delayed. Sir Arthur Porritt expected the working party to report within six months.

Revision of Schedules of Terms of Service

The schedules to paragraph 14 of the terms and conditions of service set out the duties within the scope of the hospital service and those outside the scope of the hospital service for which a fee is payable. The Joint Consultants Committee has informed the Ministry that it wished to open discussions with a view to revision of the schedules on the basis that any functions included in category I of the schedule (duties within the service) should be directly related to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of illness. Any other items of service should be regarded as falling within category II and the doctor should be able to claim a fee.

Shortage of Laboratory Technicians

The attention of the Joint Consultants Committee was drawn to the serious position arising from the shortage of medical laboratory technicians in hospitals. The Committee decided to raise the matter with the Ministry of Health.

The main reason for the shortage appeared to be the serious discrepancy between the salaries of medical laboratory technicians in the hospital service and those employed on similar work in other fields, including industry.

Membership of Advisory Appointments Committees

It had been recommended to the Joint Consultants Committee that the membership of advisory appointments committees set up to advise regional hospital boards on candidates for appointment to consultant or S.H.M.O. vacancies should include a majority of consultants in contract for duties at hospitals administered by regional hospital boards.

In 1956 a procedure was agreed with the Ministry whereby the medical staff of the hospital (or hospitals) concerned in the appointment could take a larger part in the advisory appointments committee. The Ministry urged regional hospital boards to include in their nominations to advisory appointments committees at least one member from the consultant staff of the hospital concerned or, where two or more hospitals are concerned, from the consultant staff of those hospitals.

The Committee agreed that this matter should be discussed again with the Ministry.

Increase in Venereal Disease

The Committee received through the Central Consultants and Specialists Committee a report by the Venereologists Group Committee of the B.M.A. on the increase in incidence of venereal disease. The main recommendations of the Group were on staffing of departments of venereology and the need for undergraduate teaching in the subject.

The Committee accepted the report in principle and decided to ask for the comments of the Royal Colleges and Royal Scottish Corporations before discussing it with the Ministry.

Hospital Building

Two memoranda, one by Dr. A. A. Baker and the other by Dr. M. Sim, on hospital building as it affected the psychiatric services were received by the Joint Consultants Committee. The memoranda had been considered by the Psychological Medicine Group Committee of the B.M.A. The Joint Committee decided to forward them to the Ministry.

Representation of Staff of Non-teaching Hospitals

A letter was received from the Regional Hospitals Consultants and Specialists Association expressing its view that the representation of staffs of non-teaching hospitals on the Joint Consultants Committee should be increased.

The Committee thought that it would be difficult to allow direct representation of any particular group of the profession. Staffs of non-teaching hospitals should be represented through the constituent bodies of the Joint Consultants Committee. In fact, five of the six representatives of one constituent body (the C.C. and S. Committee) were in contract for duties at regional hospital board hospitals, and three of them were members of the small subcommittee which acted for the Joint Consultants Committee in discussions with the Ministry.

Accident Services Review Committee

The Planning Subcommittee of the Joint Consultants Committee had considered the interim report of the Accident Services Review Committee, and Mr. H. OSMOND-CLARKE (chairman of the Accident Services Review Committee) attended to speak to the report.

The Joint Consultants Committee expressed its general agreement with the report and has asked for an opportunity of discussing it with the Ministry of Health.

"The armed forces plan to draft up to 400 physicians in the near future, with most of them slated to appear in the Army. Physicians who completed internships last July will be affected" (*A.M.A. News*, October 26). The Army has also indicated which medical reserve officers were liable to recall.

SERVICE COMMITTEE HEARINGS

SUPPORT FOR PRIVACY AND ANONYMITY

Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and opticians in the National Health Service should learn that no one who has been the subject of judgment by a service committee need admit to any newspaper that he is the professional man concerned. Once he admits it he has no redress if a newspaper publishes his name. These observations were made by Mr. D. RHYDDERCH in the course of his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Executive Councils Association (England) at Hastings last month. He was referring to a campaign against the association's management committee to compel executive councils to publish the names of professional men involved in the investigation of complaints. Mr. Rhydderch is vice-chairman of Birmingham Executive Council.

These investigations were held in private and anonymously "not because the 'professions' have special privileges in law denied to ordinary members of the public, but for other good reasons," said Mr. Rhydderch. The professional man's engagement with the executive council was a private one under an implied contract governed by terms of service under the N.H.S. Acts. In framing the terms of service the Ministry has been concerned to free a service committee's inquiries from the restrictive limitations of legal procedure and jargon, so that complaints could be examined in an atmosphere of ordinary common sense. This "free and easy" constitution had enabled evidence to be readily sifted, and over the years a "common law" of service committee experience and procedure had been built up "which helped enormously in coming to correct and just conclusions."

If the position were to be reversed, continued Mr. Rhydderch, and inquiries held in public with the parties named, the full protection of legal procedure and representation would have to be conceded. Time after time he had seen complainants assisted by tactful questioning which could not be allowed with "a complete legal jurisprudence." There was nothing unusual about the service committee procedure. In public and corporate bodies complaints against the persons involved were investigated in private and names were not made public. There had been cases where appeals to the Minister had succeeded fully or partially, but if the names had already been published considerable harm would have been suffered by the appellant, for which no financial redress could compensate. "I believe that in common justice no publicity of any kind should be given to anyone at this point, pending an appeal to the Minister, and I am glad that the Ministry have now conceded this principle."

If a special code of behaviour, efficiency, and fines more appropriate to criminal proceedings were to be imposed by law upon the Health Service professions, and the hearings held in public, with all the legal trappings and procedure, then it would first have to be enacted in the form of a special legal code embodied in an Act of Parliament. But equity demanded that there could not be one law for the professions and not for others. Would this special code of efficiency and degrees of punishment be extended to all other professions and indeed trades and crafts? What was good for the goose was so for the gander, Mr. Rhydderch suggested.

NEWLY APPOINTED HONORARY SECRETARIES

Last year's experiment in inviting newly appointed honorary secretaries of B.M.A. Branches and Divisions to a two-day conference at Headquarters was voted a success by those who attended. The conference was repeated this year and is now established as an annual Association event. Forty-one new honorary secretaries spent two days last week at B.M.A. House seeing something of what went on there. Dr. D. P. Stevenson, the Secretary, and his colleagues introduced discussions on various aspects of the Association's work and tours were made of the departments. Ample time was given to informal talks in groups and to questions and answers on practical problems of a secretary's job. Everybody said that the two days were most usefully spent.

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS PLATT REPORT

The Minister of Health stated last week that the Government, with the agreement of the medical profession, had accepted the main principles of the report of the joint working party on the medical staffing structure in the hospital service (the Platt report). The profession had reserved its position on the precise type of intermediate grade that might be required, its extent, title, and salary. These matters would be further considered after the review of medical staffing was completed (see *Journal*, p. 1341).

Correspondence

Because of heavy pressure on our space, correspondents are asked to keep their letters short.

G.P.'s Clinical Authority

SIR,—The letter by Dr. J. Shackleton Bailey (September 16, p. 139) is, like all his correspondence, amusing and to the point. The danger of which he warns us, that the G.P. may lose his clinical authority to consultants whom neither he nor the patient may want, is a very real one. But surely, Sir, all this can be changed overnight by the exercise of a little strength of will on the part of the G.P. himself. Well do I remember, some years ago, working in London for a time with a practitioner who had this will-power. He used to say, in effect: "I am the patient's doctor, and I recommend the consultant to him. If I am dissatisfied by the treatment I am prepared to sack the consultant and call in another. I will therefore visit the patient while he is in hospital and read his case notes in order to ensure that the treatment is to my liking." He continued to act in this way in spite of some opposition, which, however, soon died down, and still does so to this day. If all practitioners would show a little gumption in this manner we would hear a lot less of this feeling of being cut off from the hospitals.—I am, etc.,

Accra, Ghana. J. B. DAVID.

B.M.A. Charities

SIR,—It is a sad thought that the money subscribed by members of the B.M.A. to medical charities in the year 1960 amounted to so little (*Supplement*, April 22, p. 181). While I appreciate that many members subscribe regularly by deeds of covenant and annual subscriptions and that funds are raised by ladies' guilds and other means, it must appear that medical charities are the Cinderella of the profession.

I consider that to give a basic boost to the Charities Trust Fund of the Association a country-wide effort should be

made in the near future. The object would be to collect individually from the profession a donation of £1 per head, more or less according to circumstances. and the group total allocated to charities according to their individual necessities. Perhaps a B.M.A. Charities Month could be arranged next year, during which the country-wide effort could be made.

The collection of this large amount of money—it is with great expectancy that I say large—could be made quite simply and with little organization. All Divisions now have discussion groups and group conveners. The group conveners, who as a rule know all their members personally, could arrange to collect all the subscriptions either at a group meeting or by arrangement.

This letter is written in the hope that contributions to our charities may be stimulated and that this or any other ideas may be used to assist in the collection of a very necessary and fundamental form of aid.—I am, etc.,

Hitchin, Herts. A. G. REID.

Association Notices

B.M.A. BRANCHES IN AUSTRALIA

Notice is hereby given by the Council to all concerned that on the formation of the Australian Medical Association the following Branches of the B.M.A. in Australia will be dissolved on January 1, 1962: New South Wales, Queensland, South Australian, Tasmanian, Victorian, and Western Australian.

D. P. STEVENSON,
Secretary.

Diary of Central Meetings

NOVEMBER

20	Mon.	Remuneration Subcommittee of Staff Side, Committee C, Medical Whitley Council, 11 a.m.
20	Mon.	Radiologists Group Committee, 2 p.m.
20	Mon.	Staff Side, Committee C, Medical Whitley Council, 2 p.m.
22	Wed.	Remuneration Subcommittee of Occupational Health Committee, 10.15 a.m.
22	Wed.	Occupational Health Committee, 12 noon.
22	Wed.	Forensic Medicine Subcommittee, Private Practice Committee, 2 p.m.
22	Wed.	Nicholson-Lailey Committee, 2 p.m.
23	Thurs.	Trainee Scheme Advisory Committee, 10.30 a.m.
23	Thurs.	Assistants and Young Practitioners Subcommittee, G.M.S. Committee, 2 p.m.
23	Thurs.	Working Party on A.R.M. Organization Committee, 2.30 p.m.
24	Fri.	Public Health Committee, 10 a.m.
27	Mon.	S.H.M.O. Group Executive Subcommittee, 10.30 a.m.
27	Mon.	S.H.M.O. Group Council, 2.30 p.m.
29	Wed.	Committee on Education in Obstetrics, 10.15 a.m.
29	Wed.	General Purposes Committee, 10.30 a.m.
29	Wed.	Private Practice Committee, 2 p.m.
29	Wed.	Committee on Information to General Practitioners, 2.30 p.m.
29	Wed.	Joint Committee of B.M.A. and T.U.C., 3.45 p.m.
30	Thurs.	A.R.M. Agenda Committee, 11 a.m.
30	Thurs.	Finance Committee, 2 p.m.

DECEMBER

1	Fri.	Anaesthetists Group Committee, 11.15 a.m.
1	Fri.	Committee on Medical Science, Education, and Research, 2 p.m.
5	Tues.	Hospital Junior Staffs Group Council, 2 p.m.
5	Tues.	Psychological Medicine Group Committee, 2 p.m.
6	Wed.	Council, 10 a.m.
7	Thurs.	Joint Formulary Committee, 11 a.m.
13	Wed.	Subcommittee on Child Psychiatric Services, Central Consultants and Specialists Committee, 2.15 p.m.
14	Thurs.	Central Consultants and Specialists Committee, 10.30 a.m.
15	Fri.	Ophthalmic Qualifications Committee, 1 p.m.
15	Fri.	Ophthalmic Group Committee, 2 p.m.
21	Thurs.	G.M.S. Committee, 10.30 a.m.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

BROMLEY DIVISION.—At Committee Room, Frognal House, Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Wednesday, November 22, 8.15 for 8.30 p.m., address by Mr. W. G. Holdsworth. Guests are invited.

CARDIFF DIVISION.—At Whitehall Rooms, Park Hotel, Cardiff, Wednesday, November 22, 7.30 for 8 p.m., dinner. Toast of B.M.A. proposed by Mr. Hywel Davies, and reply by Dr. D. P. Stevenson (Secretary, B.M.A.). Ladies and guests are invited.

COVENTRY DIVISION.—At Physiotherapy Department, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Tuesday, November 21, 8.30 p.m., symposium on Hypertension.

DERBY DIVISION.—At Pathology Department, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Sunday, November 26, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Dr. W. B. Matthews, Mr. J. C. Taylor, and Dr. H. L. Joyce: "Cardiovascular Disease."

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DIVISION.—At Lecture Room, Cresswell Maternity Hospital, Dumfries, Sunday, November 26, 3 p.m., B.M.A. Lecture by Dr. W. M. Court Brown: "Recent Advances in the Study of Human Chromosomes."

EAST NORFOLK DIVISION.—At Royal Hotel, Norwich, Wednesday, November 22, 6.30 for 7 p.m., meeting with East Anglian Branch, Society of Medical Officers of Health. Lecture by Dr. J. G. Howells; 8 p.m., dinner.

FURNESS DIVISION.—At Heaves Hotel, Levensbridge, Friday, November 24, 9 p.m., annual medical ball.

GRIMSBY DIVISION.—At Yarborough Hotel, Grimsby, Wednesday, November 22, 8.15 p.m., annual general meeting; 9 p.m., Mr. J. B. Pennybacker: "Headache."

HYDE DIVISION.—At Deanwater Hotel, Wilmslow, Tuesday, November 21, 8.30 for 9 p.m., jointly with Glossop Medical Society, annual dinner-dance.

LAMBETH AND SOUTHWARK DIVISION.—At Committee Room, Lambeth Hospital, Wednesday, November 22, 8.15 for 8.30 p.m., Dr. J. Merry: "Matters of Interest in Psychiatry."

LEIGH DIVISION.—At Casino Ballroom, Leigh, Wednesday, November 22, 8.30 for 9 p.m., annual ball.

NORTH-EAST ESSEX DIVISION.—At Senior Staff Room, Essex County Hospital, Colchester, Thursday, November 23, 8 for 8.30 p.m., meeting and clinical evening. Talk by Dr. C. D. Wilson-Sharp: "*X*-rays and the Patient."

NORTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—At North Middlesex Hospital (Out-patients Department), Silver Street, N., Tuesday, November 21, 2.30 p.m., clinical meeting. Medical guests are welcome.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.—At Imperial Hotel, Llandudno, Saturday, November 25, 3 p.m., autumn meeting. Sound film: "Conovid."

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH.—At Portland Building, Nottingham University, Wednesday, November 22, 7.30 for 8 p.m., annual dinner.

OLDHAM DIVISION.—At Crompton and Royton Golf Club, High Barn, Royton, Monday, November 20, 9 p.m., Dr. R. Harris: "Physical Medicine in General Practice."

ST. PANCRAS DIVISION.—At B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C., Thursday, November 23, 7.30 p.m., informal dinner: 8.45 p.m., address by the Earl of Longford, P.C.: "Crime and Punishment." Senior medical students, members of B.M.S.A., and non-medical guests are invited.

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE DIVISION.—At Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Wednesday, November 22, 9 p.m., film: "The Faces of Depression," with supporting lecture by Dr. T. E. Grant: "Depression—its Diagnosis and Treatment."

SOUTH ESSEX DIVISION.—At Nurses' Lecture Room, Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, Friday, November 24, 8.30 for 9 p.m., "Brains Trust" of local psychiatrists. Dr. A. W. Hetherington (chairman). Team, Dr. Russell Barton, Dr. R. W. Crocket, Dr. G. C. Heller, and Dr. J. E. G. Vincenzi.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—At Jersey Rooms, Red Lion Hotel, Hounslow, Thursday, November 23, 7.15 for 7.45 p.m., annual dinner dance.

SOUTH STAFFS DIVISION.—At Board Room, Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, Wednesday, November 22, 8.30 p.m., meeting.

STOCKPORT DIVISION.—At Alma Lodge Hotel, Stockport, Thursday, November 23, 7.30 for 8 p.m., annual dinner and dance.

SUNDERLAND DIVISION.—Thursday, November 23. (1) At Sunderland Eye Infirmary, 4 p.m., annual address by Sir Wilfrid Sheldon. (2) At Seaburn Hotel, 7.30 for 8 p.m., annual dinner.

SUTTON DIVISION.—At Wilson's Café, Grove Road, Sutton, Tuesday, November 21, 8 p.m., address by Dr. Walter Hedgcock (Deputy Secretary, B.M.A.): "Medicine and the Common Market." Non-members in the area of the Division are invited.

SUTTON COLDFIELD DIVISION.—At Penns Hall Hotel, Sutton Coldfield, Thursday, November 23, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., dinner-dance.

SWINDON DIVISION.—At Goddard Arms Hotel, Swindon, Friday, November 24, 8.30 p.m., B.M.A. Lecture by Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. Addison: "National Disasters."

TOWER HAMLETS DIVISION.—At Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road, London E., Friday, November 24, 3 p.m., Mr. S. D. Perchard: "Hormone Therapy in Gynaecology."

TROWBRIDGE DIVISION.—At Ham Green Hospital, Pill, near Bristol, Saturday, November 25, 2.30 p.m., clinical meeting.

WEST SOMERSET DIVISION.—At Empire Hall, County Hotel, Taunton, Thursday, November 23, 7.45 for 8.15 p.m., 10th annual dinner and dance.

WIGAN DIVISION.—At Haigh Hall, Wigan, Thursday, November 23, 8 p.m., combined meeting with Wigan Law Society. B.M.A. Lecture by Mr. W. Gissane: "Review of Research Findings on the Cause of Road Injuries, and Some Observations on Their Prevention."